



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Wednesday, 26 July 2017

at

2:07pm

at

Walcha Council Chambers

PRESENT: Clr EH Noakes (Chairman) Mayor together with Councillors PR Blomfield, KW Ferrier, WJ Heazlett, JM Kealey, SJ Kermode, CM Lyon and RL Wellings.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr JG O'Hara, General Manager, Mr DJM Reeves, Director – Engineering Services, and Mrs LJ Latham, Environmental Services Manager.

1. APOLOGIES:

Nil.

MINUTES



2. CONFIRMATION OF THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE 2017:

1 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Ferrier that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 28 June 2017, copies of which have been distributed to all members, be taken as read and confirmed a **TRUE** record.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5. MAYORAL MINUTE

2 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Mayor Noakes that the Mayoral Minute be **ADOPTED** by Council as presented.

July 2017 Mayoral Minute:

On 7 July General Manager, Jack Ohara, and myself attended the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation (JO) meeting in Bingara. Despite legislation surrounding the formation of JOs still to go before Parliament, even though it has been drafted, Namoi Councils JO took a proactive stance to move ahead and implement strategies that I believe will have a positive effect on Walcha Council. Tamworth Regional Council, the largest Council in the JO is making progress into trade relations with China. With these contacts and those formed by other Councils the JO is hoping to forge partnerships that will be of benefit to all member Councils. Tamworth aspires to have an international freight airport and a number of member councils are vying for an abattoir. This can feasibly see fresh agricultural produce landed in China in under 20 hours. Obviously to Walcha the export of meat, dairy and vegetables are major prospects. The success of the Apsley Dam project would also be a very good fit into this vision.

This vision is a long term project, but we must start somewhere and I see there is no better place than here. The favoured contact city in China is Ningbo with a population of 5.8 million, a major sea port, international airport and GDP per capita of AUD \$18,059 (2013). From how I understand it business with China is complicated and proper channels must be followed. It is not simply just making contact as some areas of the media portray it. A lot of the ground work has been done, but as has been reported in local media Tamworth Regional Council still faces opposition to its investment in this area. As is said of this market it takes twice as long, costs twice as much and you get half what you wanted. Success will come with a collaborative approach.

The minutes of that meeting, which are included in this business paper, give a snapshot of the advocacy and leadership roles of member councils. They include Walcha's development of an Energy and Sustainability plan in conjunction with Uralla. This will most likely require the engagement of an outside party, and to identify human resources within member



councils. Funding for this project will hopefully come from Climate Change funding in 2017-2018.

In the past I have been somewhat negative of the JOs direction, but I now feel as it finds its feet and common goals that our investment will show returns. These returns may not be immediate but should through collaboration with the other six member councils give Walcha reason to grow and secure our financial future.

Clr Eric Noakes
Mayor of Walcha

6. SENIOR OFFICERS REPORT

3 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Heazlett and Ferrier that the Senior Officers' Reports be **RECEIVED** for further consideration.

6.1 Review of Public Gates Policy (Ramps) WO/2017/01204

4 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council **ADOPT** the Draft Public Gates Policy (Ramps) as amended and place on public exhibition for a period of 28 days inviting submissions **FURTHER THAT** the policy will not come into effect until 1 January 2017 to provide sufficient time for ramp owners to bring their ramps up to the required Standard.

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES



PUBLIC GATE (RAMPS) POLICY

Objective

To ensure the provision of an efficient, safe and effective road system for the community. In addition, ensure that productivity gains that have been made by opening Council infrastructure to higher productivity vehicles is not compromised by privately held ramps. It should be noted that it is Council's intention is to remove ramps from public roads wherever possible.

Policy

This policy provides Council's requirements for granting permits for the erection of a public gate and delegate's authority to the General Manager to administer sections 128 to 137 of the Roads Act 1993 in accordance with this policy.

All new (replacement) public gates and ramps will be subject to the following requirements.

- 1. New public gates and ramps will not be allowed on any roads managed by Council.*
- 2. The replacement of existing public gates and ramps will be permitted when required, however the new ramp must meet Councils standard requirements as seen in Attachment 1.*
- 3. Ramps must be removed where road reserves are fenced.*
- 4. The gate and ramp will be installed, maintained and administered in accordance with the requirements of Section 128 to 137 of the Roads Act 1993, and Section 67 to 70 of the Roads (General) Regulation 2000).*
- 5. All costs associated erection of the public gate and ramp shall be met by the owner.*
- 6. Despite the yearly maintenance fee described below, all costs associated with the maintenance of the ramp and concrete base structure shall be met by the owner.*



7. Council reserves the right to order the maintenance, replacement or removal of a ramp that does not meet the standard requirements listed in Attachment 1.
8. Council will implement in accordance with the below table, a notification of defect system, that outlines the defect on the ramp and provides a timeline for maintenance, replacement or removal depending upon the degree of deterioration:

<i>Defect Group</i>	<i>Time Permitted to Rectify the Notified Defect</i>
<i>Defect that poses an extreme risk to public safety</i>	<i>48 Hours</i>
<i>Defect that poses a high risk to public safety</i>	<i>7 Days</i>
<i>Ramp defect of moderate risk to public safety</i>	<i>14 Days</i>
<i>Ramp defect of minor risk to public safety</i>	<i>1 Month</i>
<i>Ramp requiring removal notice</i>	<i>1 Month</i>
<i>Ramp requiring replacement notice</i>	<i>1 Month</i>

9. If the owners of the ramp do not complete the required works within the above defect response time, Council reserves the right to order the removal of the ramp to ensure public safety.

Ongoing Maintenance of Ramps:

In order to ensure the safe, effective and ongoing maintenance of public ramps, Council will assume the responsibility of maintaining the ramp surrounds. In doing so, Council will charge the following annual fees for the maintenance of each public ramp.

<i>Service:</i>	<i>Annual Fee (Ex GST)</i>
<i>Yearly Maintenance Fee</i>	<i>As detailed within Councils Fees and Charges</i>
<i>Cleaning of Gravel / Debris in the Ramp</i>	<i>Quoted for each occasion.</i>
<i>Maintenance of Ramp and Concrete Base</i>	<i>Quoted for each occasion.</i>

The yearly maintenance fee is for the following services:

- *Maintenance of the road to the ramp (grading, pothole patching, drainage).*
- *The administrative requirements of gathering, storing and updating insurances and certification of the ramp.*
- *The administrative requirements of inspecting and reporting on ramp integrity.*

Ramp owners that wish to maintain the above items that are listed as “quoted for each occasion” utilising their own labour and machinery will be permitted to do so, however a pre-approval is required. The requirements of this pre-approval are detailed within the ramp owner’s package that will be distributed to all ramp owners. Additionally, a copy can be requested from Council’s Engineering Department.

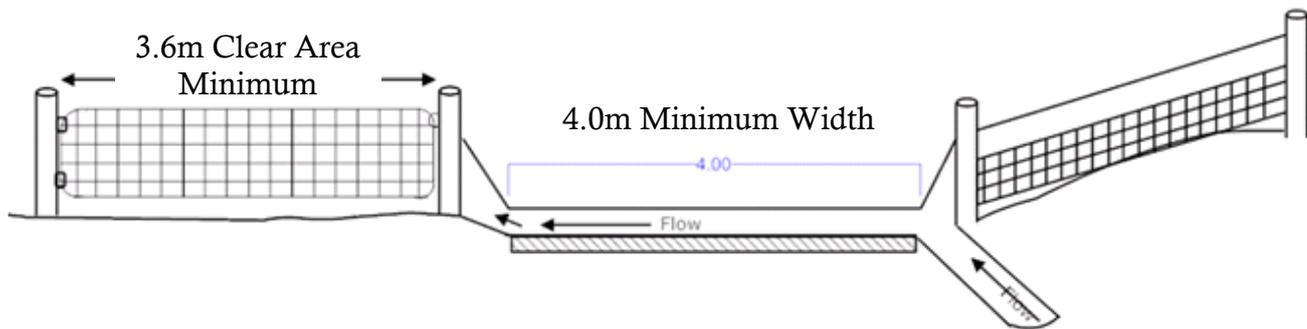
Delegation of Authority

The implementation of this policy is bound by the requirements of Division 2, Part 9 of the Roads Act 1993 and the supporting regulations which provide the Council, as the roads authority, with the power to issue and revoke permits for the installation of public gates and bypass structures across public roads. For the purpose of exercising this function, Council has delegated the function to the General Manager pursuant to section 322 of the Local Government Act. The delegation includes the creation and ongoing review of guidelines to assist the public to apply for, construct and maintain public gate infrastructure.

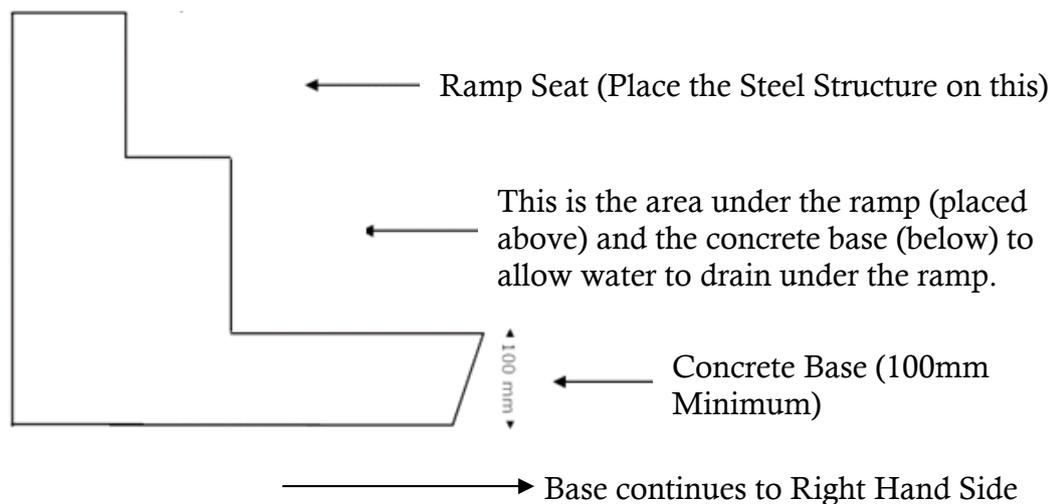


*Supersedes Previous "Transport & Communication Policies – Ramps" – DD/2410
 Adopted Council Meeting 26 August 2009 – Minute No.: 25/2009-2010
 Attachment 1:*

Walcha Council Standard Ramp Specifications (Note that this can be reversed with the gate and / or channel on the other side of the ramp)



*Standard Ramp Outlay:
 Standard Ramp Concrete Base (Left Hand Side) – Cross Sectional View:*



1. A gate with a clear opening of at least 3.6 metres shall be erected to one side of the existing road alignment.
2. A stock ramp shall be installed with its centreline corresponding to the centreline of the existing road.
3. The ramp must be installed with a concrete base that allows water to flow under the ramp as specified in the above drawings.
4. The ramp must be installed with appropriate "wings" that do not face oncoming traffic.
5. The ramp shall be certified by a structural engineer as being capable of carrying normal highway loading to comply with the current Australian Standard.
6. The ramp shall have a clear opening of at least 4.0m.



6.2 Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework – Workforce Management Plan 2017-2021 and Long Term Financial Plan 2017/2018 – 2026/2027
WO/2017/01199

5 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that Council review and **ADOPT** the Workforce Management Plan 2017-2021 and the Long Term Financial Plan 2017/2018 – 2026/2027.

6.3 Draft Fees & Charges for Community Services **WO/2017/01166**

6 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Kealey that Council place the Draft Fees & Charges for the Walcha Library and Walcha Council Community Care on public exhibition inviting public submissions for a period of 28 days as per the Local Government Act, 1993.

Afternoon Tea

The Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm for afternoon tea and reconvened at 3:35pm.

6.4 Entering & Sealing of Rate Book 2016/2017 Year **WO/2017/01055**

7 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Blomfield that the Common Seal be affixed to the 2016/2017 Rate Book Reconciliation and be attested to by the Mayor and the General Manager.

6.5 Initial Reconciliation of Valuations to Rates Levied 2017/2018

WO/2017/0155

8 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Blomfield that the Common Seal be affixed to the Initial Reconciliation of valuations to rates levied as at the 1 July 2017 and be attested to by the Mayor and the General Manager.

6.6 Update – McHattan Park Upgrade **WO/2017/01161**

9 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Lyon that Council accept the generous donation from the Town & Country Committee **FURTHER THAT** request that the Super Chuter be removed from the donation in order to fund the freight and installation component of these items **STILL FURTHER THAT** Council install a plaque within McHattan Park acknowledging the Town & Country Committee.

6.7 Grant Funding Available **WO/2017/01133**

10 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Kermode that Council submit an application under the 2017 Community Building Partnership Program for \$25,000 to refurbish the Community Care Centre **FURTHER THAT** submit application under the Stronger Country Communities Fund for the following projects with the attached priority:

Priority 1: Walcha Preschool	\$660,000
Priority 2: Sporting Facilities upgrade	\$120,000



Priority 3: Refurbish Walcha Swimming Pool \$126,000

6.8 Committee of the Whole Referral – Tender for the DrumMuster Container Collection EX00018 WO/2017/01207

11 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act 1993, the matter of Tender for the DrumMuster Container Collection be referred to be discussed in Committee of the Whole for the reason that it relates to information that would if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

12. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

12 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Heazlett Council resolve into Committee of the Whole and that the press and public be excluded from the entire proceedings of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole for the reason that it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

13 The Meeting resumed in **OPEN** Council on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Lyon.

The Mayor reported whilst in Committee of the Whole the following matters were discussed.

PRESENT: Present and IN Attendance were the same as listed in the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting with the exception of the press and the public.

12.1 Tenders for Collection of DrumMuster Containers EX00018

WO/2017/01007

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Lyon that Council **ACCEPT** the Tender submitted by Challenge Community Services for DrumMuster Container Collection services to participating NIRW Councils, specifically Walcha Council, for a period of 2 years with a 12 month extension.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

13 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Lyon that the Report and Recommendations of the Meeting of the Walcha Council Committee of the Whole held on (day and date of Meeting) be **ADOPTED** by Council.

The Chairman publicly declared the recommendations passed by the Committee whilst in Committee of the Whole.



LATE REPORTS:

1. Stores Stocktake as at 23 June 2017 **WO/2017/01214**
14 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Kermode that stock value adjustments totalling \$342.16 write off be made to inventory items detailed in the schedule.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

7.1 Erect Signage on Levee Bank **WO/2017/01227**
15 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Wellings and Heazlett that Council investigate the erection of a two sided sign on the levee bank in the vicinity of the Fitzroy Street Bridge.

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Clr Kermode raised the matter of a regular column advising community organisations of possible grant funding.

It was ruled by the Chairperson to be a matter of urgency.

16 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kermode and Lyon that a regular column advising community organisations of possible grant funding be received for further consideration.

17 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Kealey and Lyon that Council place a regular column in both local papers as well as items on social media, advising community organisations of possible available grant funding.

9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORTS **WO/2017/01170**

18 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Lyon and Ferrier that items included in the Management Review Report, numbered 9.1 to 9.16 inclusive, be **NOTED** by Council.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Minutes of the Walcha Preschool Advisory Committee Meeting held on Monday, 5 June 2017. **WO/2017/00914**

19 **RESOLVED** on the Motion of Councillors Ferrier and Wellings that Council adopt the amended and new Preschool Policies and the Preschool Business Plan 2017/2018 as presented.

10.2 Minutes of the Walcha Council Community Care Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 6 June 2017. **WO/2017/00916**



11. DELEGATE REPORTS

- 11.1 Minute of the Mid North Weight of Loads Group Meeting held at Kempsey Shire Council on Monday, 6 March 2017 WI/2017/06852**
- 11.2 Minutes of the Namoi Councils Joint Organisation Board Meeting held at Bingara on Thursday, 6 July 2017. WI/2017/07432**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:30PM.